

Hide and Seek

by Susan Walton

Living on a farm and being 10 miles from your closest neighbor can be lonely but also being the youngest of 3 children, I was left to entertain myself on many occasions.

When I was 5 years old I was playing in our backyard after my brother and sister had gone to school. I had been playing for quite some time when I heard my mother call my name. I did not answer her but waited for her to call me again; which she did. I decided to play a game with my mom and so I hid in a space where two sections of our house jutted out. The space was just the right size for a 5 year old to hide without being seen by an adult.

Again my mom called for me and came out of our house to look and listen. I did not reply. Mom passed by my hiding spot several times while I waited with excitement thinking I would be found, but I was not.

After several minutes of searching by mom, my dad came in the field. My mom voiced her concern to my dad for she feared I had fallen into a very deep and rapid irrigation canal that ran through through our property several feet

from our house. So now I had dad looking too! What fun! I was so excited I could feel and hear my heart beating faster and faster.

Dad looked at the canal and then joined my mom in searching. They looked for me about 20 more minutes inside our house and out continually calling my name, but I did not speak, I just waited for them to find me.

Each time they passed by my hiding place, I almost stopped breathing, thinking they would see me. Finally I could contain myself no longer and I giggled.

The next thing I saw was my dad's huge hand reaching in and pulling me from my spot.

My parents then explained their concern and relief to me and then as added insurance that I would not do such a thing again, I received a spanking. My pride was crushed much more than my back end, but it's a lesson I will always remember. I always answer my mom now !

Susan Walton in 1984